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Welcome

Happy New Year to you all; we are all delighted to say goodbye to 2020! Welcome to the 7th edition of the National Disability Quality Improvement Office newsletter. We want to begin the year by thanking all of you so much for your support in helping us to develop tools and guidance and sharing your expertise!!!! We could not do this work without you.

We are bringing you the latest documents that have been developed for Disability Services both COVID-related and documents that we were working on pre-COVID. We have therefore divided this edition of the Newsletter into two discreet sections:

- 1. COVID-Related documents/webinars**
- 2. Non-COVID-Related documents**

We hope this newsletter will provide you with an accessible and user-friendly means of accessing the Guidance Documents and Webinars that have been developed by the National HSE Disabilities Quality improvement team. As you are aware, this situation is evolving very rapidly, so it essential that you keep updated and please refer to the following websites regularly for updates:
www.hse.ie/coronavirus and www.hpsc.ie

Section 1: COVID-related Work

1. How to access Disability Services specific guidance for COVID-19

All HSE Guidance and Resources for Disability Services for COVID-19 are available on <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources>

- i. This brings you into the website and you need to scroll down to find **HSE Approved Guidance for Disability Services**.
- ii. You will find a **List of Guidance** documents which are numbered. (We will be updating this regularly so please check in once a week)
- iii. You can then find the numbered document that you are looking for and download.

2. Guidance documents developed by HSE Disability Services for COVID-19

37.

[Interim Guidance on Conducting Assessments in Disability Services](#)

Target audience:

This guidance has been developed to support clinicians (multidisciplinary health and social care providers who are supporting children and young people with disabilities) in thinking through decision making regarding disability assessments in the context of Covid-19.

Description:

It considers different elements of assessment and how these can be navigated either remotely, or using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and applying Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) procedures. The guidance 1) outlines the approach to assessment in general, 2) to assessment of need (AON) in particular, 3) provides a number of indicative assessment challenge scenarios, and 4) describes a range of instruments and resources that may be useful for clinical decision making. Using clinical expertise and a flexible approach, assessments can be legitimately undertaken and provide a quality of evidence sufficient to effectively guide intervention.

38. [Guidance to support the resumption of centre-based respite services in line with COVID-19 restrictions.](#)

Target audience:

Children, young people and adults with disabilities, and their families as well as respite service providers.

Description:

This guidance applies to all centre-based respite services for people with disabilities, both HSE provided and HSE funded. This includes all respite services whether provided by day, overnight or a combination of both. It applies to stand-alone respite houses, those situated on a campus with other long-stay residential houses, those situated within one house where some people live permanently (shared-care) etc. The critical element to maintain the safety of all individuals, their families and the staff is that risk assessments are conducted prior to admission. This will be discussed in the document. The guidance identifies the key safety principles and outlines the required safety measures from a macro viewpoint to prevent the spread of COVID-19 amongst individuals, staff and families.

39. Guidance to support the provision of Personal Assistants in line with COVID-19 restrictions

Target audience:

Personal Assistants (PAs), Service Providers who employ and provide PAs, Leaders and Disabled People who employ PAs

Description:

This guidance has been developed to support PAs, Leaders and Service Providers to take the best possible Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) measures to protect both PAs and Leaders from acquiring COVID-19. The purpose of this guidance is to advise on how to best reduce the risks (via individual assessments) as PAs continue to fulfil their critical role.

40. Guidance measures for Disability Services with the current high levels of COVID-19 transmission in the community

Target audience:

Day and Respite Service Providers; Home Support and PA Service Providers; Adults with a disability; Carers, Staff, management and families who are supporting adults with disabilities.

Description:

The purpose of this document is to clarify measures to be undertaken to ensure disability services, which are considered to be **essential services** can continue to operate safely during the current phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.

41. Guidance and Practical Resource Pack in Preparation for COVID-19 Vaccination Programme in Disability Services

Target audience:

Staff, carers and family members who are supporting people with disabilities to make informed choices when offered the COVID-vaccination.

Description:

This guidance and practical support pack is to help staff to support all people with disabilities, irrespective of their decision-making capacity or communication skills to communicate their informed choice when offered the COVID-19 vaccination.

Other useful Resources

- A recording of the webinar on *Supporting the consent process for the vaccination programme against Sars-CoV-2 (Covid-19)* Friday 8th January 2021 is now live – you can access it at <http://bit.ly/3oGtyD3> You will also find the presentations from the day and useful links on the page.
- Guidance on vaccination in disabilities and other services in Easy Read format can be found in the [Dr. Steeven's Immunisation Hub](#)
- Webinar for Infection prevention and control guidance in residential care facilities on Friday, 15th January, 12-1pm if anyone needs a refresher on guidance. [Link for registration](#).

Actions for Healthcare Workers

Implement Standard Precautions for infection prevention and control with all people you support at all times:



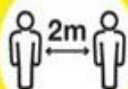
- Hand hygiene
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Environmental hygiene

Promote respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette which involves:



- Covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and sneezing or coughing into the crook of an elbow
- Discarding used tissue into a waste bin
- Cleaning hands

Maintain a physical distance of at least 1 metre (3 feet) but ideally 2 metres from individual with respiratory symptoms (where possible)



Avoid touching your face

Clean your hands regularly as per WHO 5 moments



Cleaning and disinfection is also very important

Use a facemask in addition to Standard Precautions when working within 2 metres of a service user, regardless of COVID-19 status.



Use Contact and Droplet Precautions (use of PPE) in addition to Standard Precautions when working within 1 metre of person who is confirmed/suspected COVID 19. PPE use:

- Mask
- Gloves
- Eye protection (if risk of contamination to eyes from splashing of blood, body fluids, excretions or secretions including respiratory secretions)
- Plastic disposable apron (if risk of blood or body fluid splashing on HCW's clothes)

Section 2: Non-COVID work

1. How to access Disability Services Information on HSEland

Please install Google Chrome

Information from the repository on the Change Hub has been replicated in the Discovery Zone for Disability Services. <https://discoveryzone.hseland.ie/national-disability-services-quality-improvement-office>

Log on using your [HSEland](#) username & password if you already are a [HSEland](#) Registered User

If you are a first time user, select '**Create an Account**' and follow the relevant steps outlined.

<https://www.hseland.ie/dash/Account/Loginon>

Once logged in, select the '**Hubs**' tile

Scroll down to Discovery zone, click on Go

Once you enter the Discovery Zone you select Disability Services from the drop down menu and this will bring you to areas hosting the information for the National Disability Services QI office.

The screenshot displays the HSEland Discovery Zone website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, About, Interested in, News, Resources, Course Catalogues, Certificates, and Help. A blue banner at the top states: "The HSEland Hubs are designed to support the rollout of local and national initiatives, allowing you to find out what's happening, access relevant documentation, and collaborate and learn together online." Below this, a yellow banner provides information about a technology upgrade: "To facilitate a new technology upgrade, the Change Hub and the Health and Social Care Professionals Hub are currently unavailable. In the interim, some related resources will be available within the Discovery Zone Hub until both hubs are re-launched in early 2023. We apologise for any inconvenience caused." Further down, a section titled "Health Services Change Guide resources can also be accessed on https://www.hseland.ie/eng/staff/resources/changeguide/" is shown. The main content area features a grid of hub tiles: i-START Hub, Mental Health Hub, Community Networks Hub, and Discovery Zone. Below this, a "You Might be Interested In:" section lists the Nursing & Midwifery Hub, National NCHD Training Hub, and Performance Achievement Hub. On the right side, a "Welcome to the Discovery Zone" section is visible, featuring a search bar and a dropdown menu with the following options: Business Services, Clinical Resources, Disability Services (highlighted), Health and Wellbeing, Human Resources, Image Gallery, Leadership, Education & Talent Development, Miscellaneous, and Sharecare. The footer contains the copyright notice "© Copyright HSE 2021, created by Helen Lanning" and the HSE logo.

2. National Frameworks

We are delighted to announce the publication of the National Framework for Medicines Management in Disability Services . This is a result of almost 4 years work and was developed by a multidisciplinary steering group and multiple working groups and engagement with the Regulators and Unions. Work will now commence on the development of training programmes to support the implementation of this framework. The document is available at the following link:

[National Framework for Medicines Management in Disability Services](#)

3. Work underway (please check our HSEland page and Twitter frequently for updates)

Guiding Principles

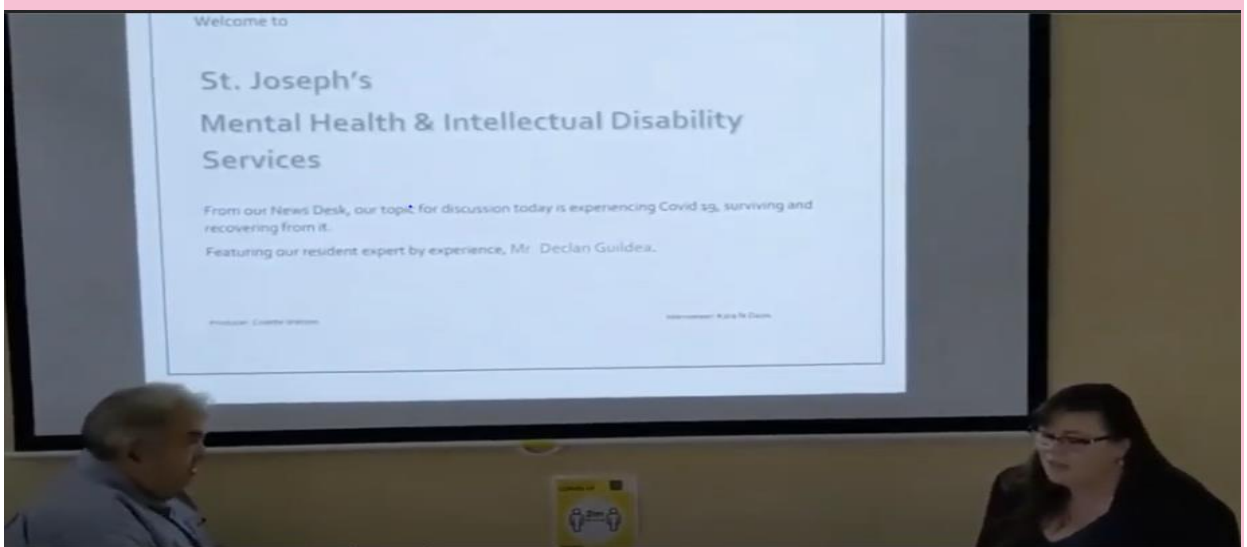
- No. 5 Provision of Information
- No. 6 Preventing the Need for Restriction - we are also finalising a *Practical Application of the 8 Guiding Principles* for this particular set of Guiding Principles

4. National Sharing Day - recordings of webinars 2020

In lieu of our National Sharing Day, we held three webinars. All presenters were disabled people.

Webinar 1 – Thursday 12th November 2020 - [Experience of living during COVID](#)

This initial webinar was opened by Minister Anne Rabbitte TD and attended by 300 people – staff, families, carers and disabled people. There were 9 presentations by disabled people at this webinar – participants were offered a range of formats in which to present – live presentation, pre-recorded presentation and via an art form (drawing, dancing, singing, poetry etc.).



Declan Guildea a resident from St Ita's Portrane speaks about his experience of catching COVID 19 to Caragh Nugent-Davis.

Webinar 2 – Thursday 26th November 2020 - [Valuing the Contributions of Disabled People](#)

Almost 200 people attended this second webinar. There were 5 presentations by disabled people at this webinar – participants were offered a range of formats in which to present – live presentation, pre-recorded presentation and via an art form (drawing, dancing, singing, poetry etc.).



Pauline Skehan has been writing poems for 25 years and find its beneficial to share in these restrictive times.

Webinar 3 – Thursday 3rd December 2020 – [Hearing and Responding to the Voices of Disabled People](#) (*International Day for People with Disabilities*)

This final webinar was attended by almost 400 people. There were 5 presentations by disabled people at this webinar – participants were offered a range of formats in which to present – live presentation, pre-recorded presentation and via an art form (drawing, dancing, singing, poetry etc.).

Grainne Leach a HSE staff member spoke about an accident which resulted in her losing an arm and her daily struggles. Her message is to be kind and inclusive. Look beyond the disability.



Surviving a Pandemic by Orla King

**You should wear a mask
It'll help not to spread the germs
Maybe at the end of all this
You could turn out to be a bookworm.**

**Then you'll be able to read and write
And do all these lovely poems
Then you'll have so much knowledge
To show that you can never ever be all alone**

5. 22nd September 2021 National Sharing Day

Venue will be Dublin Castle.

We also plan to host 2/3 webinars throughout the year.

In due course we will be putting a sub group together to decide on topics and schedule dates. If you would like to join that subgroup or have ideas on topics that would like to be discussed please email disabilitiesqi@hse.ie

6. Next Steps

If you have any ideas on issues that you would like us to focus on, resources or tools that you would find helpful or if you are aware of best practice and resources that you are willing to share, please feel free to contact us at mariet.kehoe@hse.ie

We welcome your feedback in regards to information you would like to see or topics covered in this newsletter. If you have any feedback please email disabilitiesqi@hse.ie and follow us on Twitter @Disabilities_QI for all of our latest updates.

Marie, Joanne & Nicole

Coronavirus COVID-19

Know the signs



High Temperature



Shortness of Breath



Breathing Difficulties



Cough

For 8 out of 10 people, rest and over the counter medication can help you feel better.